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Bromyard Urban District

HEREFORDSHIRE



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# ANNUAL REPORT

on the

State of the Public Health

For the Year 1946

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# Staff of the Public Health Department

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Medical Officer of Health	...	...	H. F. GREEN, M.A., M.B., D.P.H. (Private Tel.: Leominster 323) (Returned to duty on the 1st September, 1946)
Acting Medical Officer of Health	...	I. F. MACKENZIE, M.D. (Edin.), (Deputy County Medical Officer)	D.P.H., D.T.M. & H. (Relinquished duty on the 31st August, 1946)
Clerk	...	...	B. J. SCANDRETT (On War Service from 1939)
Temporary Clerk	...	...	MISS D. M. J. BRAMFITT
Sanitary Inspector (Part-time)	...	J. D. BARRS, M. Inst. M. Cy. Engs., C.S.I.	

Public Health Office: 4, CHURCH STREET, LEOMINSTER.  
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To The Chairman and Members of the Bromyard Urban Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for the year 1946.

I returned to duty on the 1st September, 1946. This report deals largely, therefore, with the work of Dr. Mackenzie and the other members of the Public Health Staff. May I take this opportunity of expressing my gratitude to Dr. Mackenzie, who in addition to his own duties as a deputy County Medical Officer of Health, has so ably carried on the duties of Medical Officer of Health during my absence on War service.

A period of reconstruction is now upon us. Before the War a start had been made on improving housing conditions in the district but progress ceased when war broke out. The problem is, therefore, far greater than before the war, and is further increased by the large number of young families living in the town with their parents and has been rendered urgent by the fact that many dilapidations occur in houses whose fabric is totally beyond repair.

Housing construction must therefore be pressed forward as circumstances permit, bearing in mind the fact that apart from statutory action, certain houses may soon become uninhabitable.

H. F. GREEN,  
*Medical Officer of Health.*

## SECTION A. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in Acres) ... ..	213
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1946) according to the Rate Books	469
Rateable Value ... ..	£8,927
Sum represented by a Penny Rate ... ..	£35 1 4

### EXTRACT FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR:

LIVE BIRTH RATE (per 1,000 of estimated resident population) ... ..	17.4
STILL-BIRTH RATE (per 1,000 Live and Still Birth) ... ..	35.7
DEATH RATE (per 1,000 of estimated resident population) ... ..	15.0
INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE (per 1,000 live births) ... ..	0.0
DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES: No deaths in 1946 were attributable to puerperal or maternal causes.	

### COMPARABLE DATA FOR ENGLAND AND WALES, 1946:

LIVE BIRTH RATE ... ..	19.1
DEATH RATE ... ..	11.5
INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE ... ..	43.0

## SECTION B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

### LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Laboratory facilities continued to be available at the Public Health Laboratory, Hereford, which is under the administration of the Medical Research Council.

### CLINICS.

There are none provided by the Local Authority.

Under the County Council schemes the following Clinic facilities are available to residents in the district.

Child Welfare Centre: In Frome Bank, Bromyard, on alternate Thursdays at 1.30 p.m.

Venereal Diseases: At the County Council Hospital, Hereford, on Wednesdays and Fridays.

The County schemes also provide for Maternal and Child Welfare Clinics, Paediatric, Ear, Nose and Throat, and Eye Clinics. Children are referred to these Clinics as and when required, on the recommendation of the School Medical or Infant Welfare Authority at the request of the Medical Practitioner.

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I am indebted to Mr. J. D. Barrs for the following statement (Sections C. to E.) furnished under Article 27 (sub-Section 18) of the Sanitary Officers (outside London) Regulations.

## SECTION C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

### WATER SUPPLIES.

The whole of the district is supplied and also eleven houses and four farms in the Rural District. Altogether some 500 houses and numerous business premises are supplied.

The supply which is chlorinated was generally adequate for all purposes throughout the year. The yield from the six wells varied from 60,000 gallons to 100,000 and upwards daily.

The rate of consumption per head daily was about 27 gallons.

## SEWERAGE.

Owing to the continuance of war-time conditions, the proposed sewage disposal scheme formulated in 1937 remained in abeyance, and the sewage was discharged at three outfalls in a crude condition as in previous years.

The principal outfall is at "Forburries" where some 40,000 gallons of sewage flow into the River Frome. Fortunately the level of the river was not lowered by drought conditions as in 1944, and consequently the sewage was diluted and rendered less noxious to nearby householders.

The pipe sewers in the town were examined every month and they were generally found in a satisfactory condition and remarkably free from odour.

## RIVERS AND STREAMS.

Except for the matter of pollution described under the previous heading, there was nothing calling for comment.

## HOUSE REFUSE.

The collection of house refuse is carried out by a motor lorry contractor, and the speedy removal thereby is a great improvement on the old horse-drawn trolley method. The dustbins are now emptied and cleared off the street footways early in the day.

## CONVERSION OF PAIL OR PIT CLOSETS INTO W.C.s.

There are some 30 houses in the town with either pail or pit closets and this number represents six per cent. of the occupied houses. The Council are desirous for W.C.s to be substituted in place of the insanitary pail closets, the emptying of which is very objectionable to women tenants. Owners have been directed to carry out the proposed conversion as soon as circumstances, such as labour and material, will permit.

## HOUSING SCHEME.

The Council approved of a scheme for the erection of 26 houses on the Ballhurst Estate Site and a tender has been accepted for the carrying out of the work, including the making of roads and the construction of drains. Steady progress has been made with the work.

## SANITARY INSPECTION.

INSPECTIONS UNDER				Number of inspections	Informal Notices served	Statutory Notices served	Notices complied with
Housing Act, 1936	...	...	...	16	—	—	—
Public Health Act, 1936	...	...	...	61	10	—	5
Dairies	...	...	...	14	—	—	—
Bakehouses	...	...	...	18	—	—	—
Butcher's Shops	...	...	...	22	—	—	—
Factories and Workshops	...	...	...	6	—	—	—
Water Supplies	...	...	...	7	—	—	—
Infectious Disease	...	...	...	8	—	—	—
Complaints	...	...	...	27	12	—	10
Schools	...	...	...	15	—	—	—

## DEFECTS REMEDIED.

Drains cleared	...	...	...	10	New W.C. Pans	...	...	...	3
Drains repaired	...	...	...	6	Flushing Cisterns provided	...	...	...	3
New Drains	...	...	...	5					

**FACTORIES.**

With Mechanical Power.—No. of Inspections ... .. 6

**CAMPING SITES.**

There are no registered camping sites in the area.

**BED BUGS.**

No reports of bed bug infestation were received.

**SECTION D.—HOUSING.**

**INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.**

1. (a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under the Public Health and Housing Acts	...	...	34
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	40
2.	Number of dwelling houses found not to be, in all respects, reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	5

**SECTION E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.**

**MILK.**

There are no milk producers in the Urban District. Inspection of the Dairies in the town is carried out regularly and samples are taken when necessary. Most of the milk retailed in town is sampled outside the district.

**MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.**

No cases of diseased meat were noted, all meat having been thoroughly inspected at the Hereford Abattoir.

Transport and handling of the meat was satisfactory.

**ICE CREAM.**

Six premises are registered under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

**FOOD FOUND TO BE UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION.**

The following foods were examined, found unsound and destroyed:—

Bacon	...	...	...	17½ lbs.	...	Decomposition
Tinned Fish	...	...	...	68 tins	...	Blown
Tinned Vegetables	...	...	...	64 tins	...	Blown
Meat	...	...	...	365 lbs.	...	Damaged by fire
Tinned Meat	...	...	...	24 tins	...	Blown
Eggs	...	...	...	204	...	Decomposition
Fruit	...	...	...	2½ cwt.	...	Vermin infested

#### SECTION F.—PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

1946 was remarkable for its freedom from infectious disease.

## ANALYSIS OF TOTAL NOTIFIED CASES, ACCORDING TO AGE.

Disease.	Age of Patient.					
Pneumonia ...				0-1		
Whooping Cough...				1-2		
Measles ...				2-3		
				3-4		
				4-5		
				5-6		
				6-7		
				7-10		
				10-15		
				15-20		
				20-30		
				30-40		
				Over 40		
				Unknown		
Total	12	2	4			

## DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The state of immunisation of the child population of the district at the end of 1946 is indicated in the table below.

	Under 5 years of age		Between 5 and 15 years of age		Total Under 15
	Number	Percentage of group	Number	Percentage of group	Number
Locals	63	50.4%	276	125.4%	339
Evacuees (all ages)	--	--	--	--	6

Since practically all evacuees had returned to their homes by the end of 1946, it was felt desirable to sub-divide the groups of children immunised into "locals" and evacuees. All the records have therefore been re-checked. The figures given this year are not strictly comparable to those given in the Annual Reports of 1945 and 1944. A further source of inaccuracy lies in that the movements of population during the war years between Bromyard and the Midland Industrial towns have been very complex. To differentiate between a "local" and an evacuee, excepting on the basis of billeting, has proved almost impossible. Thus it is probable that an accurate estimate either of the local population or of the number of local children immunised, is out of the question.

In spite of these difficulties the figures given are on the whole satisfactory though in the years 1944, 1945 and 1946 there has been some falling off in the number of children under five years of age immunised.

"LOCAL" CHILDREN aged 0—4 years.

	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946
Number immunised during year	42	—	30	37	30	25	14	15
Number immunised at any time	42	28	52	74	79	95	73	63



"Immunised" indicates only those children who have completed a full course of injections.

The immunisation scheme was started in 1939, at the time of an epidemic of Diphtheria. Practically every child under the age of 15 was at that time immunised and this very satisfactory state of affairs has provided a solid foundation. No doubt patience will be required in future to maintain this social habit of immunisation and the introduction on the 31st of July, 1946 of the General Practitioners scheme should be of further assistance.

# TUBERCULOSIS.

At the end of 1946 the Tuberculosis Register contained the names of two males and eight females who normally reside in the Council's district.

During the year two new cases were notified, one on account of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and one because of the presence of the disease in parts of the body other than the lungs. During the same period, one death from the disease occurred.

## CAUSES OF DEATH (ALL AGES)

Disease		Males	Females	Total
Cerebro Spinal Fever (Meningitis)	...	—	1	1
Tuberculosis	...	1	—	1
Cancer (all forms)	...	2	2	4
Intra-cranial Vascular lesions	...	2	4	6
Diseases of the Heart and Arteries	...	4	3	7
Bronchitis and Pneumonia	...	1	1	2
Nephritis	...	2	1	3

